

'SAVE A BABY' PETITION AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS



AS the ambulances carrying nearly a million signatures in support of the Society's 'Save a Baby' campaign swept past the Houses of Parliament, a mother pushing a wheelchair stopped to watch. The ambulances bore the name of The Spastics Society and the mother pointed them out to her spastic child.

The signatures were on a petition urging the Government to take steps to reduce the number of babies born handicapped and dead in the British Isles. For the child in the wheelchair on Westminster Bridge, any measures will come too late.

Assembled at the main entrance to the House of Commons was a prestigious array of people, all leaders in their field, awaiting the arrival of the petition. It was delivered by midwives, all members of the Royal College of Midwives from hospitals and

area health authorities throughout London and the surrounding area.

Their job was to carry the signatures, all bound up in red ribbon and transported in carry-cots donated for the occasion by

Continued on page 12



• MIDWIVES march forward outside the Commons with the bundles of signatures bound in red ribbon and placed in carrycots. The Royal College of Midwives' President, Mrs Winitred Andrews, had lent early support to the campaign.

Society's film wins awards

THE Spastics Society's film 'Priority of Priorities — Save Our Babies' won two film awards in May.

At the third Annual International Rehabilitation Film Festival in New York on May 17-18, 'Priority of Priorities' won first prize in its category, being one of 91 titles selected from 256 entries.

The film was also awarded a certificate of merit at the BISFA Festival in Brighton.

'Priority of Priorities,' directed by Nigel Evans and produced by Randal Evans Productions Ltd, is available on free loan from Concord Films Council Ltd. Tel: 0473 76012; or Viscom Ltd, Tel 01-676 6161.

Ready for New York and the Special Olympics



Appeal concert at the Albert Hall

An evening of music, romantic, majestic and inspiring is promised at the Royal Albert Hall on June 16 when The Spastics Society holds its second charity concert, and the organiser, Michael Brophy, the Society's Fund Raising Director is hoping for a sell-out. The programme consists of Berlioz's Overture The Corsair, Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 3, soloist John Lill and Belshazzar's Feast by Walton with Willard White, bass.

Also taking part are the London Choral Society under their director Nicholas Ceobury, and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra led by Barry Griffiths, and conducted by Simon Rattle. Lord Goodman, however, takes the stage first to launch an appeal for The Spastics Society.

Tickets ranging from 75p to £5 are obtainable from Tricia Hamilton, The Spastic Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W1N 4EQ, and the Albert Hall box office.

SPECIAL Olympics — here we come. Fifteen year old Philip Tamblin from The Spastic Society's Meldreth Manor School is the youngest of the 32 UK competitors who will be taking part in the US Special Olympics to be held in Rochester, New York from August 9-13.

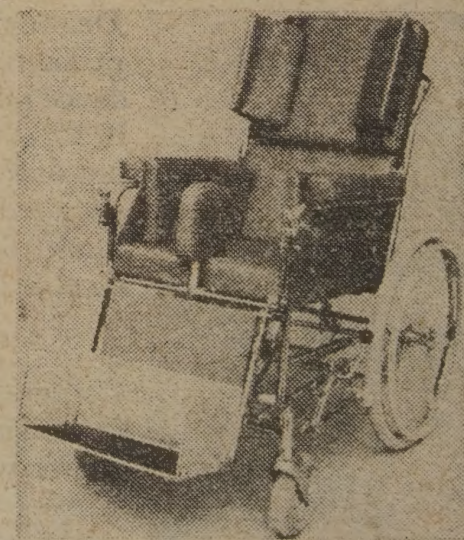
Philip who comes from Herodsfoot, near Liskeard in Cornwall, will compete in the wheelchair race and slalom. The final selection heats for the UK team were held in May at Gloucester Leisure Centre.

Philip's enthusiastic 'trainer' is Mrs Pat Pettit, superintendent physio-

therapist at Meldreth who is a member of SOLAR — Special Opportunities for Leisure and Recreation — a new organisation for mentally handicapped people which is supported by The Spastics Society, the Disabled Living Foundation and the National Federation of Gateway Clubs.

This year is the first time that the UK has entered a team for the Special Olympics which were set up by the Kennedy Foundation in 1965, headed by Mrs Eunice Shriver, the late John Kennedy's sister, as an offering to their retarded sister Rosemary.

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New bus for the Good Neighbours

A TOAST is drunk to launch a new minibus, presented by Brian Rix, as President of the Lords Taverners, to David Jacobs, of the Stars Organisation for Spastics. Sylvia Sims, chairman of Good Neighbours House, which is run by the SOS, looks on, along with residents and staff.

The new minibus will be used to transport residents of Good Neighbours House, Camberwell, to and from the Croydon Day Centre. The gift of the new minibus means that along with the minibus presented last year by the National Westminster Bank, there is now available transport for all the 25 residents.

—and Rutland House

White Lodge appeals to stay in the swim

TO the children at White Lodge Centre for Spastic Children, their swimming pool means play and

enjoyment. But it is also valuable therapy as Principal Carol Myers explains: 'It is easier for

the children to move their legs in the water than on land so it strengthens their muscles. And by making them blow bubbles in the water it helps their breathing and consequently their speech and feeding.'

However the pool at White Lodge is now 17 years old. It is cracked and leaky and patching-up jobs to repair it only have temporary success. So White Lodge has launched an appeal for a new pool which will cost around £13,500.

MRS Shanne Humphreys, a therapist at White Lodge Centre for Spastic Children, helps Stephen Edwards with his swimming.

Picture by Surrey Herald



East and West, the same old access problems

THE access symbol for the disabled is international, but then the problems are too. If you think getting around in a wheelchair is difficult enough in the UK, it's just the same in Singapore, according to the Handicaps Monthly, published by the Singapore Council of Social Service.

Most common obstacles are steps and staircases, narrow turnstiles and counter exits in supermarkets, and an absence of adapted toilets in hotels, theatres and restaurants.

Things are beginning to change, however, and the Singapore Institute of Architects has been conducting research into accessibility to public areas in buildings for handicapped people. The aim is to come up with recommendations and guidelines for architects and designers.

Meanwhile at least one modern shopping centre currently under construction looks like being a boon for handicapped people. In the Thomson Plaza every attempt is being made to minimise barriers and obstacles. There will be ramps on every level from the basement to the top floor; the floors will be non-slip and there will be specially designed toilets.

And already there are lower kerbs at road junctions, and another move in the right direction has been the introduction of double decker buses with the first bus step almost level with the kerb-side.

THE keys of a new minibus for The Spastic Society's Rutland House School, Nottingham, are presented to the headmistress Mrs Oviatt-Hamm. Mr F. F. Wright, Chairman of the Midlands Region Co-ordinating Committee, pictured handing over the keys, is holding one of the many collecting boxes used to raise the £8,000 involved.

Croydon's work is filmed

CROYDON, Sutton and District Spastics Society is having a 20 minute publicity film made by the Croydon Cine Club, a local group of amateur film makers. Members commissioned the film after seeing the Cine Club's film of the Silver Jubilee celebrations.

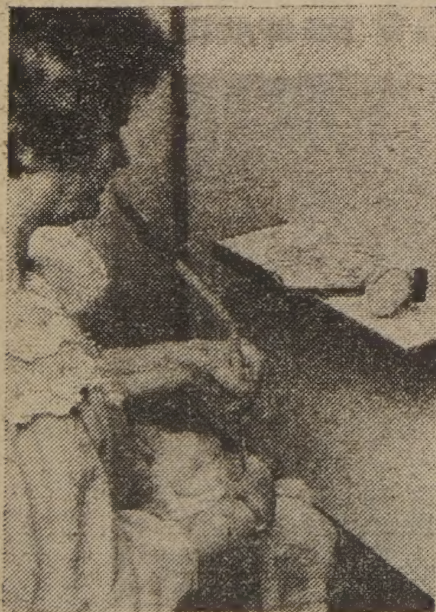
The local group will pay for the cost of materials but the film club members will work on a voluntary basis. The finished production will be an 8mm colour film showing the work of the group with handicapped children and adults at its centre in Croydon.

Personal Care

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SN June10

Army 'ops' aid Meldreth

THIRTY soldiers from 60 Field Support Squadron of the Royal Engineers, Waterbeach, are to take part in 'operation campsite' at The Spastics Society's Meldreth Manor School in Hertfordshire. They are to build a foot-bridge and concrete a path to a nearby field which will then be used as a camping site for the children to use at weekends.

In addition to taking part in 'operation campsite,' other soldiers in the group intend to take 10 of the children together with four teachers on an adventure holiday near Weymouth.

Council bends rules for a boy and a bike

ELEVEN-year-old Christopher Banks from Southend, who can only walk with the aid of sticks, couldn't wait to go for a ride on his specially adapted tricycle, brand new from the DHSS. But it was no joy as Chris's joyride was concerned when he saw the notice banning cycling in his nearby play area, Warrior Square Gardens.

Chris's mother Mrs Jackie Banks suffers from diabetes and can't walk far without getting overtired. And the trike is too big to

fit into the boot of the family car. So it really did look as if Chris wasn't going to get much mileage out of his new mobility aid.

However, a kind-hearted council official, Mr Les Page, Director of Amenities for Southend, quickly came up with some specially adapted rules to go with the specially adapted trike. And now Chris has a letter of authority allowing him to ride his trike not only in Warrior Square Gardens, but also in any other gardens in the town.



OUR HAPPY MARRIAGE... Brian and Margaret, the 'Like Other People' couple, tell their story

'We live for each other'

SEVEN years ago this summer, Margaret and Brian Oliver were married. The previous December they had both played leading parts in The Spastics Society's film 'Like Other People,' a film which is still regularly being shown to audiences all over the country. In the film Margaret spoke for both herself and Brian when she declared their hopes for a shared life together.

Instead of an engagement ring with a stone in a claw setting which might get knocked or damaged, Margaret then wore an eternity ring. Now she wears two eternity rings, the second one being a gift from Brian on their first anniversary.

Seven years on

Now, seven anniversaries after their wheelchair wedding, which *Spastics News* reported in full in 1972, how is life working out for this determined couple who, through the medium of the film, have encouraged so many other handicapped young couples to reach out for a life of their own?

'We depend on each other and live for each other,' said Margaret. 'There are no regrets. Things have worked out better than we thought. We don't have many worries. Social Security are fair to us. We've got our parents and they help out... my parents pay the rental on the colour TV

● FLASHBACK to Margaret and Brian's wedding day.



● THE happy couple—seven years later. Margaret, who is the more mobile of the pair, does the shopping in her Mini Clubman, which is also useful for short trips down to the many little coves and beaches around Poole.

and Brian's parents load us up with goodies whenever we visit.

'Our health is our main worry. If one of us is ill, the other can't manage, and as you get older things do tend to go wrong,' added Margaret.

Margaret, who is now 33, and Brian, 31, have made their home together at Poole in Dorset in a purpose-built flat which was offered to them by the director of the Raglan Housing Association after seeing the film all those years ago. They share the chores, with Brian taking care of the cooking because of his steadier hands. 'I can recommend his curry,' says Margaret proudly. The WRVS call three times a week with meals on

wheels, and another regular caller is the baker, who collects and delivers orders. Otherwise Margaret, who has greater mobility than Brian, and who drives a Mini Clubman, does the shopping in a local store.

Visitors

Also living at Friendship House is another spastic couple, Pauline and Nigel Morrow, who were former residents at Ponds, now the Princess Marina Centre, at the same time as Margaret and Brian. Friends like Tony Smith and Keith Griffin, are regular visitors.

A constant domestic companion to Margaret and Brian is an affectionate part collie dog called Jul, who was actually born on their wedding day, July 10. This fact, which seemed like a good omen at the

time, emerged when Margaret and Brian visited the farm to collect her as a puppy. 'She's our baby really,' confesses Margaret, who together with Brian has made the decision that children are not for them. 'We have enough to do looking after ourselves.'

Living on the premises at Friendship House is the young Irish warden, Mrs Jones, who is available on call for emergencies, but who otherwise respects their privacy. 'If Brian falls or if I drop a milk bottle then it's obviously better to call than for her to patch me up afterwards,' says Margaret. But however well they cope at home, Margaret is quick to admit that 'outside of this flat, we need a lot of help.'

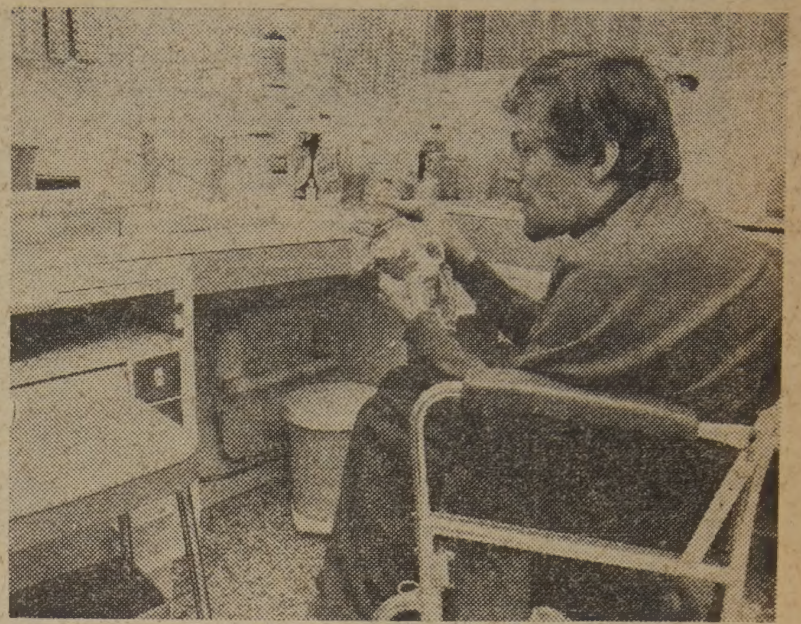
Holiday

In March the couple went for the first time on a Spastics Society holiday, spending a week in Florence. Their helpers were another married couple, Jean and Kelvin Woolmer, whose company they really enjoyed.

'One thing we were scared of before getting married was being constantly in each other's company all the time,' says Margaret. 'But funnily enough it hasn't been a problem. We have our rows, but no more than anyone else. We don't argue about money. It's usually about stupid things, like Brian spilling his tea and me going up the wall. Brian is calm and placid by nature and it takes a lot to make him lose his temper. I'm the opposite. I fly off the handle but I cool down quickly.'

'But when we have a row and stop talking to each other, we can't carry on that way for long. We need each other too much. We have to swallow our pride. It's a different marriage from other people's. But it's still a marriage.'

Interview by
Nancy Tuft



● BRIAN is perfectly at home in the kitchen, being responsible for cooking and washing up. The couple eat a lot of pasta and rice rather than peeling potatoes. 'Brian makes a good curry. I can thoroughly recommend it,' says Margaret. The Meals on Wheels service also calls round at the flat three times a week.



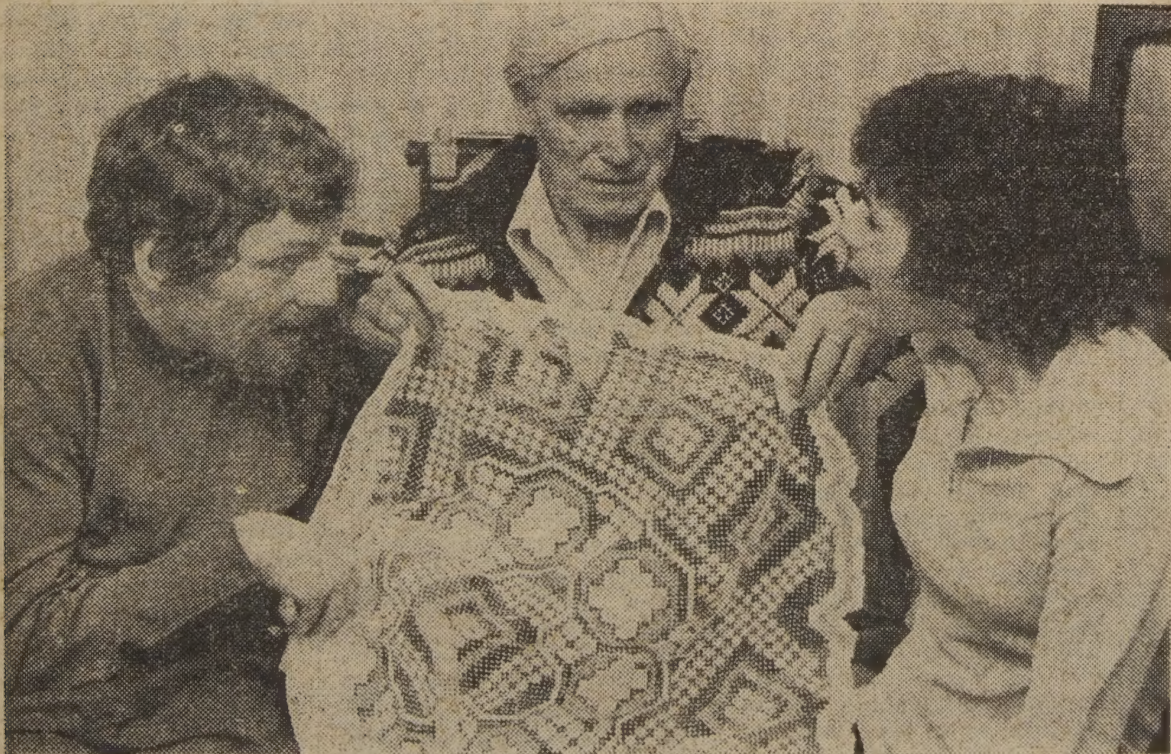
● BECAUSE Brian's hand movements are steadier than Margaret's, he is always 'mother' when it comes to pouring out the tea. The cruet set on the table was a wedding present seven years ago from a well-wisher who had seen the film 'Like Other People.' 'We got lots of letters at the time from other young couples wanting to get married who had got beaten down. I think the film helped to give them courage,' comments Margaret.



● WHEN togetherness is a shared typewriter — used mainly now for shopping lists. In the film 'Like Other People' Brian wrote poetry. Now he says there's just no time. Both Margaret and Brian say they have no regrets. 'Things have worked out better than we thought.'



● ONE of the sequences in the 'Like Other People' film was of Margaret washing Brian's hair, which she has done ever since the time when they both lived at Ponds (now the Princess Marina Centre). Recently they looked around another flat which was designed for the disabled and which would have given them an additional room. However, the bathroom was a disappointment. Few bathrooms are big enough for two wheelchairs!



● AN Italian lace tablecloth, brought back as a souvenir from Margaret and Brian's spring holiday to Florence organised by The Spastics Society, is admired by neighbour Jock. Jock, the handyman at Friendship House where the couple have their flat, pops in most days to pass the time of day. The lace tablecloth is a present for one of the in-laws.



Ole — his matador wins a trophy

A WALL hanging of a matador, made in the workshops of the Wolverhampton and District Spastics Society, won a silver trophy for 25-year-old Stephen Tomlin.

Stephen, of Star Street, Bradmore, was presented

with the Haynes Trophy, given each year for an outstanding project by a handicapped person using the workshop.

The silver cup was handed over by Wolverhampton Wanderers footballer George Berry during a visit to the Society.

Picture by Wolverhampton Express and Star.

For parents: A Bill of Rights and freedoms

PARENTS of handicapped children in Canada have been heartened by the following 'Bill of Rights for Parents' by Dr Sol Gordon. It first appeared in the newsletter of the Canadian Association for Children with Learning Disabilities, was subsequently displayed in hospitals, and also appeared in the Canadian Cerebral Palsy Association's magazine 'Contact.' Spastics News brought it across the Atlantic to provide food for thought for parents here.

Parents are acutely aware of their responsibilities to provide educational, medical, emotional and professional help for their offspring, but are seldom aware of the rights they also have as parents of a child who has a handicap and as just plain people.

FREEDOM TO:

Feel that you have done the best you can.

Love and care for and enjoy your child.

Be depressed or have hostile thoughts once in a while without feeling guilty.

Be guilty occasionally but only if it organises you.

Enjoy life as intensely as possible, even though you have a child who is handicapped.

Have interesting causes to support and be busier than the average person, to a point where people ask 'How does (s)he do it?' (If you want something done, ask a busy person.)

Let your handicapped child have his or her own privacy.

Enjoy being alone at times.

Get away for a least a two-week vacation every year without the children.

Have dates, anniversaries, celebrations, weekends away, time together designed to enhance your marriage or 'singlehood,' in other words, freedom for escapist moments.

Have a sense of humour without feeling guilty.

Acknowledge you are spending lots of time with your child without having it mean you love the rest of your family less.

FREEDOM TO:

Not devote your entire life to the 'cause,' but freedom to devote as much as you want or to get away for a while.

Say at times you don't want to talk about your problems.

Say 'I'm tired of always talking about my handicapped child.'

Let people know at other times about the progress and achievements with a genuine sense of pride.

Lie every once in a while, to say everything is fine, not feeling compelled to tell the truth to everyone who asks 'How are you?'

Tell teachers, professionals and other educators what you really feel about the job they are doing and to demand they respect your opinions.

Tell your child that you don't like certain things they do, even though they have a handicap.

Not praise your child gratuitously even though you've been told to offer a lot of praise.

Spend a little extra money on yourself whether or not you can afford it.

Have your hobbies and interests without interference, whether Majong, Mahler or macrame.

WARNING: Parents who do not enjoy almost all these freedoms are in trouble. A person who has a handicap can only feel guilty if they sense parents have sacrificed themselves for them. Martyred parents are seldom appreciated by anybody, least of all their handicapped children. These freedoms must be embarked upon, especially by parents whose child has been dependent, clinging, demanding and difficult.

'Children must be taught independence'

MISS Rosemary Dawson-Shepherd hammered home the message that independence is everything when she led a workshop at the Society's Midlands Regional Conference

recently. Its theme was the problems of the severely handicapped adult and Miss Dawson-Shepherd warned that spastic children just would not be able to cope with their adult lives if too much was done for them when they were young — it was imperative that they were taught independence then.

Problems beset the spastic adult who had been over-protected by parents when the parents died or became too infirm to help.

Four workshops were held simultaneously during the morning and in addition to Miss Dawson-Shepherd's, Mr John Hall, Principal of the Society's Dene College discussed what happens once school days are over. Mr Paul Burgess of Manchester Social Services talked about changes in legislation affecting the

rights of the handicapped, and Midlands Regional social workers held a problem corner dealing with local and personal issues. It was the first time this type of workshop had been tried out and it proved extremely successful.

The afternoon was given over to a general forum chaired by Lord Crawshaw and after the question and answer session Michael Brophy, the Society's Director of Fund Raising, brought delegates up to date with the successes enjoyed by the Society's 'Save a Baby' campaign and its continuation for a further 12 months.

Mike Venables, the Senior Regional Officer, Midlands, estimates that over 400 lunches were served and in addition to that many brought packed meals. There were large contingents from the Nottingham '62 Club, Broadstones Hostel, Birmingham, and the Buxton Centre.

— and that theme again

THE North East Regional Conference at Harrogate had as its theme 'Aids to Independence' and Professor D. J. Gee the conference chairman, stressed the importance of handicapped people seeking and achieving independence.

Dr Gee also announced to the 200 delegates that Mr Peter Day would not be seeking re-election as Chairman of the Regional Co-ordinating committee having decided to retire.

Mr Day gave his last annual report which included the handing over of a mobile physiotherapy unit to a local authority a year early, the setting up of another and plans for the third. Mr Day added that the regional fund was in a satisfactory state, congratulated Mr William Huddleston on his election to the Society's Executive Council and concluded by saying that talks were still under way with British Rail about the lack of facilities for the handicapped in the region.

Mr Bill Hargreaves, the Society's Head of Recreation gave the main talk of the morning and appealed to every group to appoint a voluntary liaison officer to communicate with his department.

Dr I. Holloway gave the afternoon talk on the work being done in the medical physics department of Newcastle General Hospital and he showed several examples of modifications that could be made simply. Miss Whittaker of the Handicapped Adventure Playground Association showed slides illustrating how children could sometimes benefit from freedom in the playground when conventional physiotherapy failed.

Mr Ian Dawson-Shepherd, a Society founder-member and Executive Council member, urged delegates to begin considering nominations for the Executive Council elections in November because the Society needed a strong, active Council to guide it through the future.

ROBERT'S REWARD



FIRST time winner of the Vic Herbert cup because of his outstanding efforts towards independence is 19-year-old Robert Jones of Beacon Park, Plymouth, who attends the Eric Robinson Workshop at Trengwath Spastics Centre.

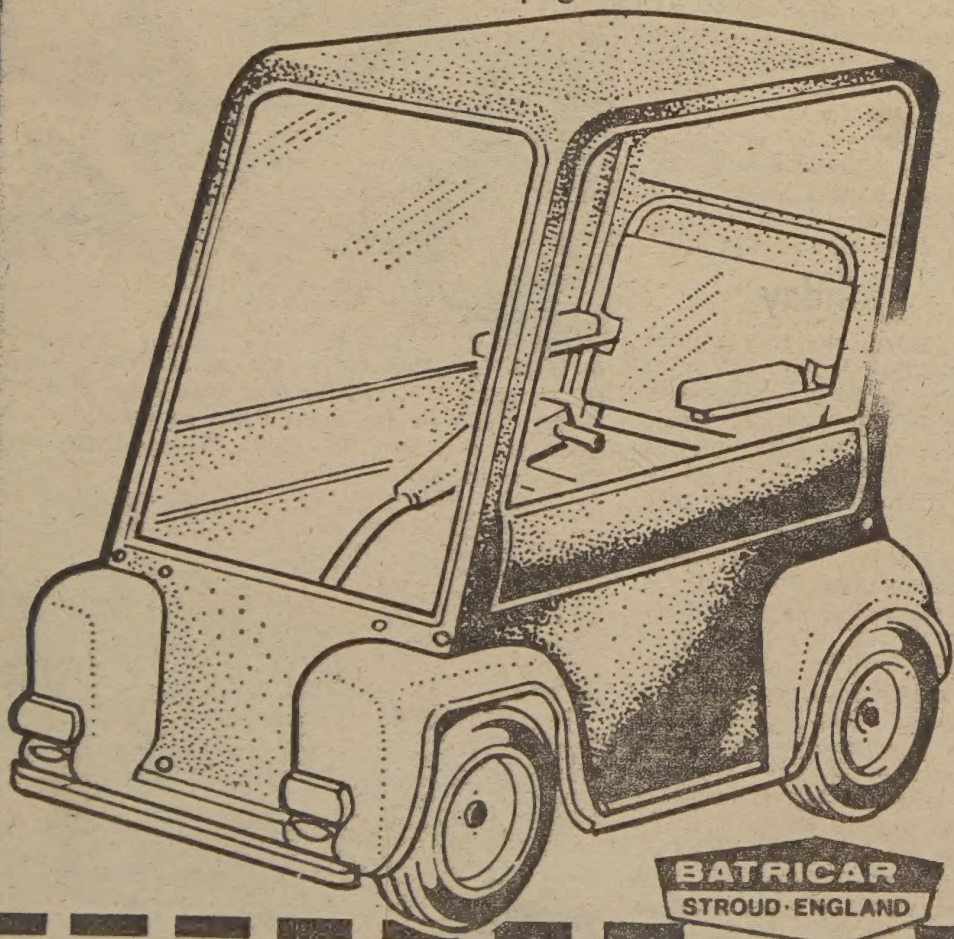
Robert won the cup, presented to him by Mr Herbert's widow, while he was at Ullenwood Manor National Star Centre in Cheltenham. During the two years he was a student there Robert organised weekend outings for other students as well as cycling into Cheltenham to his workshop each day on his tricycle. He also spent six weeks in a bungalow learning how to be self-supporting.

At the same time as he was presented with the Vic Herbert cup, Robert was also given his Duke of Edinburgh bronze award and he is now working towards his silver.

Picture by Western Evening Herald

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Spastics News discovers how a handicapped young couple cope with their baby daughter

Sharing the joy of Norah Ann



● At two months old Norah Ann is still small enough to fit comfortably into her mother's wheelchair for her mid-morning snack. When she was born, a nurse mistakenly directed her father to the wrong crib where a very premature and underweight baby lay. 'I didn't know what I was going to tell Pam, I just thought Oh Lor! Then when I did find the right one I had to keep going back to Pam to reassure her she really was perfect,' said Gordon.

The Spastics Society Appointments

YOUR ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE COULD HELP THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CONTRACTS MANAGER

WE are seeking a skilled engineer with production, costing and design experience of proven ability, who has a creative mind and is willing to accept an unusual challenge.

We run over 30 workshops for the disabled and we are anxious to develop new products and expand our sub-contract work. The post is based at our Chingford Work Centre where approximately 60 spastics enjoy proving just how capable they are of working capstan lathes, drills and power presses and despite severe physical handicaps constantly pass their production targets in the assembly and packaging departments.

Salary within the range £5,500 to £6,000 pa, including supplement and London Weighting. Age range 30-55 years.

For application forms and further particulars please contact Mrs J. M. Pedler, Personnel Officer Schools and Centres, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. Telephone 01-636 5020.

SENIOR CARE ASSISTANT HAMPTON HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON

A SENIOR Care Assistant, with some housekeeping responsibilities, is required at this unit for 26 young adult spastics. The residents have varying degrees of physical and mental handicap and all attend Local Authority Work Centres.

This post may be resident or non-resident. If resident, accommodation is available consisting of a bed-sitting room with shared kitchen and bathroom (residential emolument charge is currently £489 pa). If non-resident, some sleeping-in duties will be required.

Salary NJC Scale 2 £2,988 to £3,465 inclusive of supplement. Four weeks holiday. Pension scheme available.

For further details and application form please contact Mr C. H. Knowlton, Warden, Northampton Adult House Unit, Hampton House, Tonmead Road, Lumbertubs, Northampton NN3 4JX. Telephone Northampton 403733.

RESIDENT MATRON SRN CHILTERN HOUSE — OXFORD

A RESIDENT Matron is required to take charge of a purpose-built short-stay care and holiday home which stands in the grounds of Warneford Hospital.

The post offers an opportunity to further the work of this unit, which for several years has provided a much needed service to families. There are eight places for severely physically and/or mentally handicapped people. Resident and non-resident supportive staff.

Accommodation — a pleasant one-bedroomed flat.

Salary — NJC Scale £3,933-£4,632 including supplement plus £171 Qualification Allowance less £489 residential emolument charge.

Four weeks annual leave plus general national holidays or time in lieu. Superannuation scheme available.

For application forms and further particulars please contact Mrs J. M. Pedler, Personnel Officer, Schools and Centres, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. Telephone 01-636 5020.

NORAH Ann Fosberry is the answer to a prayer — 'I always wanted a baby. I was a bit worried about having one, but now she is here and she is perfect,' says her mother, Pam. Pam is 29 and lives with her husband in a council flat in Snodland, an industrial area in North Kent, where electricity pylons stand between the blocks of flats.

Pam suffers from spasticity and was educated first at St Margaret's School, Croydon, and then at The Spastics Society's Thomas Delarue School. She met her husband, Gordon, on a training course and they married three years ago. They always hoped for a child but their families were against the idea until a doctor told Pam there was no reason why she should not have one.

Her birth

'Carrying her was no real problem but then at the end I was sent in for a week's rest and no sooner had I gone into the West Kent Hospital at Maidstone than she started to arrive.' It was not a particularly easy birth and in the end Pam had to have a forceps delivery.

Norah Ann was born at 10 am, Friday, March 23, a fortnight early, weighing 7lb 6oz. 'All along we wanted a girl. But as long as the baby was alright we really did not mind,' said Pam. Gordon works 10 minutes away as a kitchen porter at Reed International. He was able-bodied until an industrial accident when he was 17 and caught his left hand in a machine. 'I was engaged to a girl at the time. The surgeon came in to tell me that I had lost my left hand and the same day my fiancée sent round a friend with the ring to say it was all over between us. It was a terrible time. I honestly think Pam was better off being born handicapped and not knowing any different.'

While in hospital Pam fed Norah Ann for a while, and both parents took a turn with the bottle feeding. Gordon admits that he probably takes more part in bringing up baby than most fathers. Together they share the task of bathing her in the evening and it is always Gordon who gets up to feed Norah Ann in the night. 'I am used to children — I was brought up with lots of nephews and nieces. I would like to have more children really but I quite understand after the difficult time Pam had, that one is enough.'

Being handicapped means that unlike most new young mums Pam is cut off from a lot of activities that are taken for granted. The block they live in is tenanted by elderly and retired couples. It means that Norah Ann is the apple of everyone's eye but there is no swapping of advice about babies 1979 style that most girls enjoy on a housing estate. Nor can Pam pop out to the clinic or the shops — they are too far away. Instead the health visitor calls once a week and the daily help brings in the shopping and sees to the laundry.

Some styles of baby wear are less suitable than others — the all-in-one suit favoured by most modern mums with its



● BATHED, changed and bottled — a very contented Norah Ann sleeps in the arms of her very contented, very proud and adoring parents who think the world of their special baby.

poppers are too awkward for Pam so Norah Ann is dressed in dainty and becoming cotton nighties.

Isolation means that Pam cannot chat with her contemporaries about any problems she is facing and she has just got over a bout of post natal depression. 'Later on I mean to push the pram along to the clinic because I can manage it but at the moment when we go out I carry Norah Ann in my arms and Gordon pushes us both along in my wheelchair.'

Their first expedition into the countryside, however, led to three punctures in the tyres of the wheelchair. But very soon Gordon will take on a

Ford Fiesta through the Motability scheme where the mobility allowance is used to buy a car. They are also looking forward to a move to a new flat with an extra bedroom although that will not be for some time. 'We can stay here for a year but with only one bedroom the flat was never designed for a family with young children,' said Pam, who hopes they will move nearer to her mother at Maidstone.

'Her mum has been terrific,' said Gordon who obviously, unlike some young men, thinks a great deal of his mother-in-law. 'She is always ready to lend a hand whenever we need it and pops over sometimes to help Pam get a meal ready.'

Gordon and Pam have also been very touched by peoples' kindness. 'We have been given any amount of little dresses and cuddly toys. The people at the Granada Cinema in Maidstone and the Golden Egg restaurant nearby both gave us something because we always used to go for a film and a meal there on a Saturday night.'

'A taxi driver friend brought us home from the hospital and when we arrived, he presented us with a little dress for her and returned £1 of the fare we had given him as a present. Mind you, the first time we went on the train with her, Pam as usual went in the guard's van in her wheelchair and the porter never noticed the baby on her lap.'

In common with every young couple Pam and Gordon have found that having babies is an expensive business but 'I would not give her away for a million pounds,' said her proud dad.



● BATHING Norah Ann is a joint effort, with both parents pooling their resources and skills to do the job quickly and efficiently.

Liz Cook

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SN June6

SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS IN CEREBRAL PALSY

SIDNEY SUSSEX COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,
24-28 SEPTEMBER, 1979.

THE Medical Education and Information Unit of The Spastics Society is organising the above meeting, which will be of particular interest to therapists, paediatricians, psychologists, and all those involved with the day to day management of the cerebral palsied child.

Subjects to be discussed include speech delay and its management, operant conditioning; the clumsy child; management of the hip in cerebral palsy; dribbling, incontinence, feeding; treatment as education, communication between therapies, and living with handicap.

Participation by invitation is limited to 70 people. The cost of the seminar, which INCLUDES seminar fee, accommodation and all meals, is £70.

If you would like to attend this meeting, please write to Dian Coley, MEIU, 5a Netherhall Gardens, London NW3 5RN. Tel 01-794 9759.

Your views on THAT word...

THAT word 'spastic'. Is it a cruel and outdated label, or the best way of describing cerebral palsy to the general public?

That was the question in *Spastics News* last month, and the controversy arose because of a speech by Miss Valerie

Lang at the Society's North West Regional Conference in which she declared that to describe her as 'a spastic' was to rob her of human dignity. We asked for your views, and offered £5 for the best letter. Here are a representative four from the many received...

No need for shame

HAVING just received my *Spastics News* I feel I must write a letter concerning the word 'spastic'. What ever is the matter with everyone? The word is neither cruel or offensive. Why should it be? It is nothing to be ashamed of. There are many of us leading very full and useful lives.

So Valerie Lang is only mildly spastic and is able to go out to work, and very active by the sound of the comments she made. As for losing her dignity just because she has a disability — come off it Val, and count your blessings, you are indeed very fortunate.

There is no need to use the word if you don't want to. I was born with my spastic condition from the waist down and used to wear out my boots, YES, BOOTS, in a fortnight, and

I shall be 60 next year. But I have led a full life.

I left school at 16, and went out to work until I married in 1952. I have two lovely daughters. Sadly my husband died in December, 77. We had just spent our silver wedding day together, and he died four days after. I miss him, but life must go on. Since 1973, I haven't been able to walk and am now confined to a wheelchair.

I have two lovely grandchildren who are the joy of my heart, Jason is seven and Samantha is four. My younger daughter who is 23 lives with me and is a great comfort and help, so I am not alone.

Being a 'spastic' hasn't got in my way, and I see no need to change the Society's name. For goodness sake, there is enough trouble in this world of ours without worrying about a WORD. Let the Society get on with its good work. It seems to me the ones complaining have only light disablement so why should they worry?

Eileen Dougal (Mrs),
45 The Whaddons,
Huntingdon, Cambs.

Mrs Dougal's letter wins
£5 — Editor.

Her way

READING the heading in the *Spastics News* 'How to turn a term of abuse to advantage' it occurred to me that some people might be interested to know that when talking to school children I sometimes ask them what they think the word 'spastic' means.

Then I explain the correct meaning, speaking appropriately and emotively according to the age of my audience.

Often I am able to say to children 'now when you hear the word spastic used to someone who fails to catch the ball you threw, you will feel superior because THAT person is ignorant and YOU are not.'

Oriska Cameron (Mrs),
Senior Appeals Officer,
SE Region,
Havant, Hants.

Rhyming the reasons

Please don't curl your lip or give a sneer,
When the word 'spastic' you hear.

Please don't use the word to give abuse,
Although sometimes its put to that use.

Please don't point or stand and stare,
As I sit twisted in my wheelchair.

Life for some is full of bliss,
But honest I didn't ask to be like this.

It is by fate a cruel trick

That has made me, what is called spastic
So, if I am slow, hard to adapt,

It's because I'm handicapped.
M. McKechnie,
Boulton Road, West Bromwich.



Listening to a good read

IT'S storytime for nine-year-old Ruairidh Morrison, or Ru as he's called for short. Ru is too severely handicapped to be able to turn the pages of a book unaided. But luckily Ingfield Manor, The Spastics Society's school where he is a pupil, is a member

of the National Listening Library which supplies Talking Books for the Handicapped.

Because 1979 is the International Year of the Child, the National Listening Library has put special emphasis on children's titles in its catalogue of talking books. A recent list includes P. L. Travers' 'Mary Poppins,' Enid Bagnold's 'National Velvet,' and Kingsley's 'The Water Babies,' and June's authors include favourites such as Hans Anderson, A. A. Milne, Roald Dahl, Gerald Durrell, and Noel Streatfeild.

His race career needs revving up

I AM writing to ask you if *Spastics News* could help me with some publicity relating to a problem that I have.

I am disabled by cerebral palsy (athetoid) and I am very much trying to get into professional motor sport organisation.

I am currently a marshal for one of the national motor clubs, but my true wish is to train as a professional race official despite my disabilities, which I firmly believe I can overcome. I have done a tremendous amount of studying of the RAC rules/regulations and organisation of motor sport, but despite this I just can't get people to give me a fair chance.

You may recall that in May, 1976, I was interviewed by one of your reporters about my mobile

Praise from New Zealand

TENA Koe (greetings to you).

Firstly, I enclose my Postal Note to renew my subscription to *Spastics News*. Secondly, I've managed to get others here interested into subscribing to your excellent News — the 'Save a Baby' campaign is an excellent venture. Many here wished we could have signed the petition. We are eager to see what you are planning

discotheque which I was starting up. This I have been very successful with, but I now wish to turn towards my other interest, motor sport, because I am sure that given the correct backing and moral support I could be just as good as any able-bodied race official, if not better. If the disabled can be involved with every other sport, then why not motor sport?

Ronald Cottrell,
87 Cedar Road,
Strood,
Rochester,
Kent.

● Can any readers — or race officials or organisers — help Mr Cottrell? Enthusiasm like this deserves a chance. — Editor.

Guild women back campaign

THE message behind The Spastics Society's 'Save a Baby' campaign has been spread throughout the influential Townswomens Guild by Mrs Burn, wife of Mr W. A. Burn, Executive Council member, and a former chairman of The Spastics Society.

The motion presented by Mrs Burn at the annual council meeting of the Townswomens Guild on May 23 at the Royal Albert Hall was:

'That the National Union of Townswomens Guilds in Council assembled considers that the greatest misfortune a person can suffer is to be born handicapped and, in view of this, urges HM Government to take prompt action towards reducing the needlessly high rate of perinatal death and handicap.'

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mrs Burn told the delegates, 'During 1979 — The International Year of the Child — if all measures are being taken to ensure justice for children everywhere, how much more important is it that, as a matter of even greater urgency, we take all possible steps to ensure that the rate of perinatal death and of babies being born handicapped is reduced significantly.'

Now you can grow a Gordon Taylor

NOT many people can claim the fame of having a flower named after them. But Gordon Taylor, a spastic employee of The Spastics Society's Meadow Works, Birmingham, assembling Newton Ultra-Lightweight wheelchairs, can truly be said to have cultivated success with a new chrysanthemum named after him.

Gordon's great leisure interest is gardening, and he is a keen member of the Yardley Chrysanthemum Society. The tender loving care which Gordon bestowed on a new variety from Woolman's Nursery last year resulted in five beautiful red single blooms ready in time for a national exhibition.

As a tribute to Gordon's horticultural skills, Jack Woolman, owner of the nursery, has named the new chrysanthemum after him, and it appears in the gardening catalogues as Woolman's medium single 7B red, Gordon Taylor.

Thanks for my holiday

I WOULD like to express, through *Spastics News*, my very deep appreciation to the leader and all the many helpers who took part in The Spastics Society holiday to Valkenburg, Holland, at the end of April.

I must admit that it was not without some trepidation that I finally made up my mind to go on the holiday. This was due to the fact that I had applied too late to take along my own helper, and that I would have to go entirely by myself. Because of my speech difficulty, I wondered how I would cope with complete strangers, and even more

important, how the strangers would cope with me?

However, I need not have any fears. The strangers were not strangers very long. I soon got to know, and was able to chat freely with everyone. I am especially indebted to my own helper on the holiday, Police Cadet Simon Coates of the Thames Valley Police, who was just great. Also a special word of thanks must go to Reg, our bus driver, who worked very hard, along with everyone else to make the holiday a success.

Thank you to everyone concerned for a very enjoyable holiday. Furthermore, although I am 50, they do say that one is never too old to learn, and therefore I feel that I have gained a little more confidence from the experience in my own ability to overcome my speech difficulty and make myself understood.

John Tinsley,
St Cuthbert's Hospital,
Hurworth Place,
Darlington.

Jane's plea for a pal

MY name is Jane. I am 16 years old. I would like a male pen friend from your Society. I board in a hostel in Brisbane, Australia.

At holidays and weekends I go home to the Gold Coast which is by the sea and is a great tourist attraction.

I go to school two days a week and also go to a high school in Brisbane in a suburb called West Chermide. The other days I go to a workshop so I can get some training, so one day I might be able to get a job.

I am in a wheelchair but I am able to get myself about ok. I like playing cassette tapes and having a good time.

Hope that I hear from someone soon.

Jane Leonard,
c/o Spastic Centre,
Elystan Road,
New Farm, Brisbane 4005,
Brisbane, Queensland,
Australia.

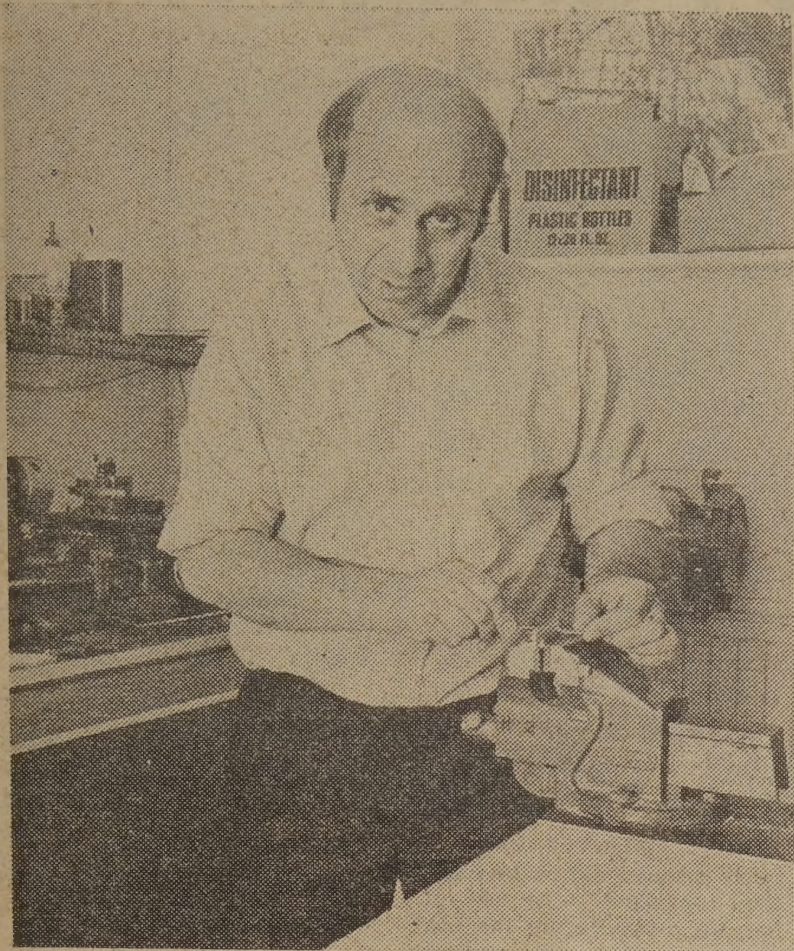
—and mine

IN April I went to Jersey and stayed in the Hotel de France. It was a lovely hotel and everybody was so very, very kind and although the weather was terrible we had a lovely holiday. We flew over and I enjoyed the flight very much, once again everybody did their utmost to make our flight a happy one.

I thought it might be a nice idea if you could just mention in *Spastics News* just how kind and helpful all the people were and just how much we appreciate it.

Peter Carter,
Wakes Hall,
Wakes Colne,
Near Colchester,
Essex.

The man with 'the magic boxes'



KEN Ketteridge, Electronic Aids Unit Engineer, has his workshop at Meldreth Manor equipped with all the basic machinery necessary for the one-man production of the electronic aids which he designs and makes.

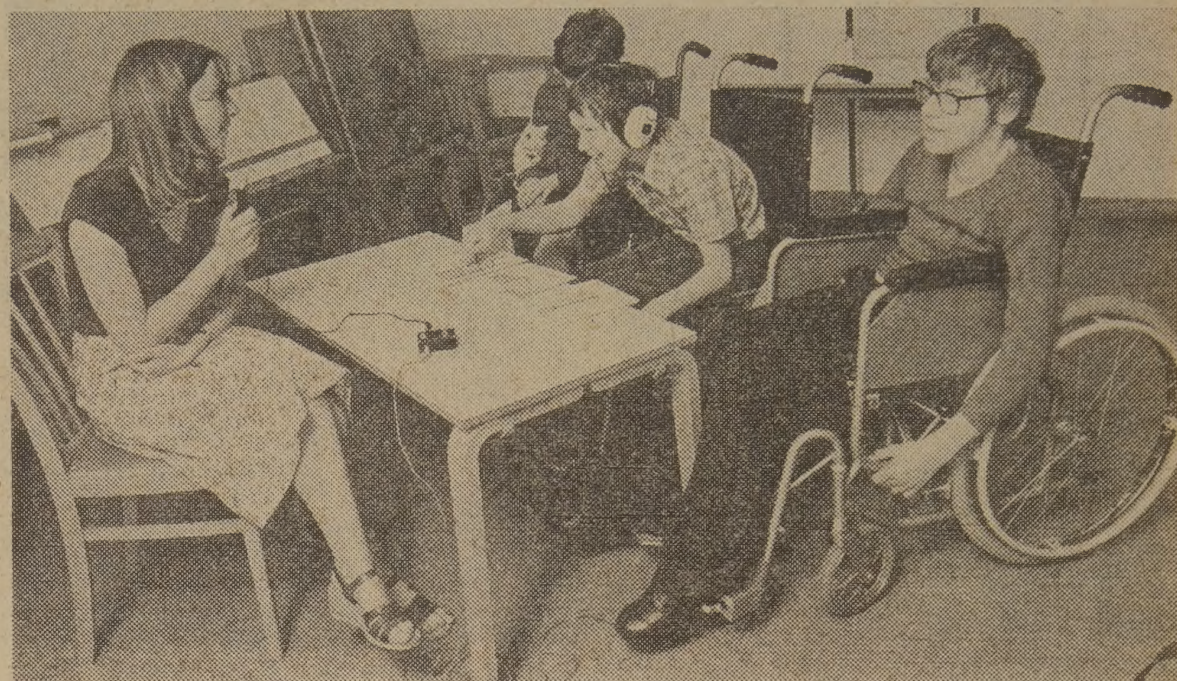
Electronic aids for children

ELECTRONIC aids aren't magic boxes with instant answers to every problem, as Ken Ketteridge, the Electronic Aids Unit Engineer based at Meldreth Manor, modestly points out. Nevertheless since he began working for The Spastics Society three years ago — 'on April the first to be precise — what a day to start a new career!' — Ken has produced a remarkable range of tangible devices, including teaching aids, the bed bug and the dribble control box, all of which have made a valuable contribution in the lives of the children, not only those at Meldreth Manor where his workshop is located, but also at Beechtree House, Ingfield Manor and Hawksworth Hall.

None of the inventions emerging from Ken's compact workshop has been made on spec. Each has been designed as the occasion arose to meet a specific request involving a particular child. And even electronic aids have their practical limitations. 'They must use clean tokens. I can't overcome the problem of them using tokens stuck together with jam,' he comments to psychologist Malcolm Jones at whose request Ken made the token dispenser, which helps reinforce a child's good behaviour by awarding plastic tokens, exchangeable later for sweets or other rewards.

Designing the electronics

Continued on page 8



SPEECH therapist Wendy Newton talks through a microphone linked to Lee, the boy wearing the headset. Ken Ketteridge describes this Mini-amp as a cheap buffer amplifier useful where excessive chatters are concerned. The child hears only the speech therapist and is not distracted by other noises.



LEFT: Frances is one of the children at Beech Tree House, a research unit for children with difficult behaviour, which is in the grounds of Meldreth Manor. She is on a behaviour modification programme whereby good behaviour is reinforced by tokens, exchangeable for sweets or other rewards. Frances chooses to use her tokens — a reward for being clean and dry at night — to obtain music. The dropping of a token in the music box activates a cassette recorder. The child's reflection is seen in the observation mirror.



SHERRY wears one of the trendy purse bags, sewn by the houseparents, which is intended to contain the dribble control boxes. The teaching aid which Sherry is using in the picture below was originally developed by Southampton University. The modified Meldreth version, called the Meldreth A4 Tutor because of the size of paper used for its programmes, has a built-in correct response chime. Teacher Avril Jackson would know that the child using the machine was working well, even if her attention was needed elsewhere in the classroom. Round her neck, Sherry is wearing the dribble control box which beeps as a warning for her to swallow.



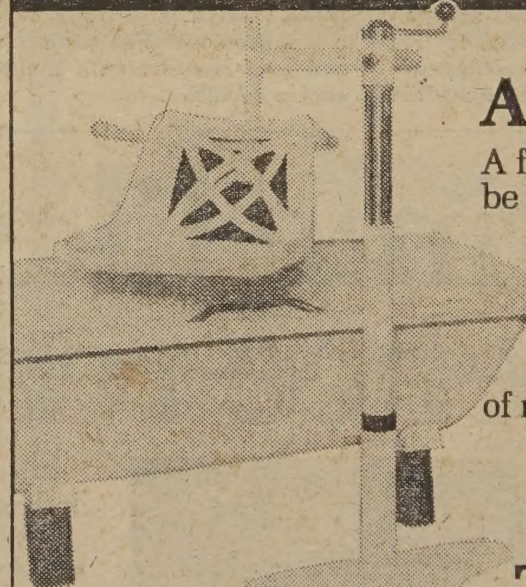
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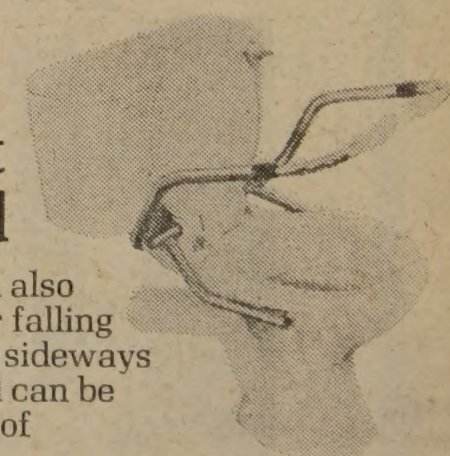
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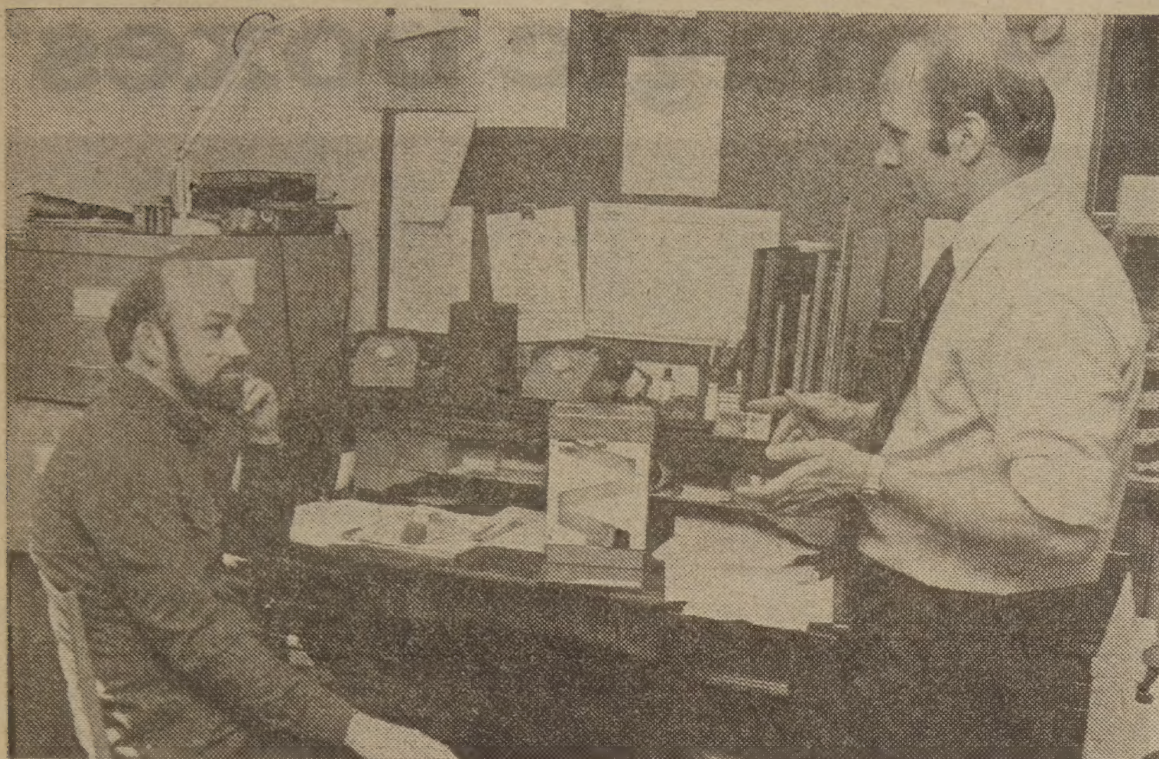


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MALCOLM Jones (left) Principal Psychologist and Head of Beech Tree Unit, Meldreth Manor School, met Ken Ketteridge five years ago since when they have worked in close collaboration turning ideas into tangible devices. It was at Malcolm Jones' request that Ken made the token dispenser, shown on the desk, as part of a behaviour modification programme.

'Magic Boxes'

Continued from page 7

component of any aid is only part of the job, as Ken explains. 'That little bit of electronics, no matter how simple or sophisticated, would not be of any use to the child unless it was packaged conveniently and presented correctly to the child by the teacher, care staff, therapist or psychologist involved. A simple solution is much more likely to be acceptable to the staff who have to use it,' he declares.

About the dribble control boxes, which give the child a warning bleep when it's time to swallow, Ken says: 'If they're fastened with a pin which makes holes in their shirts and blouses, then it isn't going to be popular with the care staff.' So the dribble control boxes are worn round the neck, carried neatly inside little pocket bags, sewn by the houseparents, which involves them in the practical application of the aid, since it is the care staff who have to reinforce the use of the dribble box.

Prior to his job with The Spastics Society, Ken worked

for Cambridge University Engineering Department in the Electronics Research Laboratory. But he has few regrets about taking his practical expertise away from the world of academics. 'The job satisfaction of working for multiple handicapped children is a hundred times greater than working for PhD types. The sort of

aids these children require calls for my total involvement and the complete range of skills I've acquired over the years.'

A booklet on Meldreth Electronic Aids by Malcolm C. Jones and Ken Ketteridge is available from Meldreth Manor School, Fenny Lane, Meldreth, Nr Royston, Herts SG8 6LG, price £1.50.



MRS Gillian Beard, research assistant, is responsible for monitoring all the teaching aids in what is called the machines

room. Sariya is working with a synchronised slide projector and tape recorder with multi-choice facilities.

TOYJOY brings fun and funds

EARLIER this year two charities, the Toy Libraries Association and The Spastics Society, met together to plan a joint project to mark the International Year of the Child. They launched TOYJOY, a project in which the public would be invited to part with unwanted toys, some of which would be suitable for use by handicapped children in toy libraries, and some of which would be sold to raise funds.

It was decided to start experimental schemes in three pilot areas where both The Spastics Society and the Toy Libraries Association were actively represented, and these areas were Croydon, Newcastle and Plymouth.

Newcastle subsequently withdrew from the project, but TOYJOY is alive and thriving in both Croydon and Plymouth.

Plymouth launched their TOYJOY week in April, on St George's day, April 23, with the then Lord Mayor, Councillor Bill Evans, accepting the first toy from BBC presenters Rene Wyndham and John Francis. There were half a dozen collection points for unwanted toys throughout the city and these included the Rockville Spastics Society Day Centre and Trengweath School.

Local television and radio stations gave wide coverage to TOYJOY week and George Woolner, Chairman of Plymouth Toy Library Association, gave a 15 minute radio talk.

Naturally the Toy Libraries Association and The Spastics Society had first pick of the splendid collection — Miss Carpenter, head of Trengweath School, selected tricycles for



their children. Parents of handicapped children also had their opportunity to buy at bargain prices before the rest of the toys were sold at a fair on June 1.

Croydon's TOYJOY fortnight takes place from June 24 to July 8. Local schools have been approached; South Norwood Junior School will be receiving toys on June 11 while the 10th Coulsdon Brownie Pack, as well as collecting used toys, will also be organising a sponsored sunflower grow to raise funds for new toys.

Collection and storage depots include Coombe Farm, the residential establishment belonging to The Spastics Society and St Margaret's Spastics Centre, Croydon. Anyone willing to help with Croydon's TOYJOY fortnight should contact Hazel Newham. Telephone (71) 53716.

TOYJOY for the Lord Mayor of Plymouth, Councillor Bill Evans, who was the first recipient of a toy handed to him by BBC presenters Rene Wyndham and John Francis during the special TOYJOY week. Television and radio gave wide publicity to this local event, which is part of a joint project organised by The Spastics Society and the Toy Libraries Association during the International Year of the Child.

Croydon is the other area chosen to hold a TOYJOY fortnight, which will be from June 24 to July 8.

Your offers and wants

FOR sale: Home Care bed, cost £235 15 months ago. A touch of the hand alters the position of the back rest from flat to upright, with easy action hand-grip fitted to either side of the bed. There is a fail-safe lock, and flame retardant mattress with water-proof cover. Owner used it for a time when she

was required to sleep upright and now no longer needs the bed. Price £135 ono. Contact Mrs R. Shelley, 15 Chauncy Avenue, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5LE. Telephone Potters Bar 59543.

ROSELLE Day Nursery has vacancies for physically handicapped children aged two to four. Further information from Ann Smith, 2 Bulwer Road, New Barnet, Herts. Tel: 01-440 5571.

FOR sale: BATRIC power chair 1976 model, three batteries, undersealed metal body, in good working order (had service before putting on sale). Asking price £250.00. Apply: Mr A. P. Jones, 'Blaenrhos', 205 Manod Road, BLAENAU FFESTINIOG, Gwynedd. Tel: 076681-746.

BRAUN four wheeled electric car complete with accessories — 16 miles range, £350 or nearest offer. Telephone: Forest Row (East Sussex) 3424.

CAN YOU HELP?

In 1947 I was in an orphanage called The Fountain Hospital situated in London. I would like to find another handicapped friend who was called 'Valerie,' also a nurse who went by the name 'Nurse Nora.'

Write to: Mrs Anita M. Bardelang, maiden name: 'Alvarez,' 133 Foxcroft Drive, Rarstrick, Brighouse, HD6 3UX.

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BOB Dyer comes from Harlow, Essex, and speedily won praise for the standard of his work on the course despite the fact he can use only one hand. Here he is seen working on all metal type jewellery, while behind him Mrs Barbara Jeffries concentrates on setting crystal stones.

Activity day at Castle Priory

THE Spastics Society's Castle Priory College is holding a unique one-day event on June 30, in which, it is hoped, an enthusiastic bunch of people of any age or ability will participate with activities such as dancing (with or without wheelchairs) and movement, arts, crafts and music making. The participants will be encouraged to join in as many of the activities as they choose and it is hoped that valuable ideas for further work will be generated as well as new skills learnt.

All handicapped visitors are invited to bring along a friend or helper and whole families will be especially welcome. And, naturally, the activities are intended for the indulgence of the able-bodied and disabled guests alike!

The activities will be day-long, but for those who prefer to relax or explore the district, which is of considerable historic interest, ample free time will be available.



JOHN Brignell comes from Brentwood, Essex, and is seen here setting crystal stones into brooches.

Bright ideas for home jewellers

NEARLY 20 years ago Barbara Jeffries was voted 'Homeworker of the Year' and she is still hard at work making jewellery. Last year she moved with her husband from the Society's Broadstones Hostel in Birmingham up to a Habinteg apartment at Ossett, West Yorkshire.

Unemployment there is rife, and so Mrs Jeffries took part in a recent Homeworkers Training Course at The Spastics Society's Bedford Hotel at Clacton to learn the new methods, the new ideas and the new types of jewellery since her day.

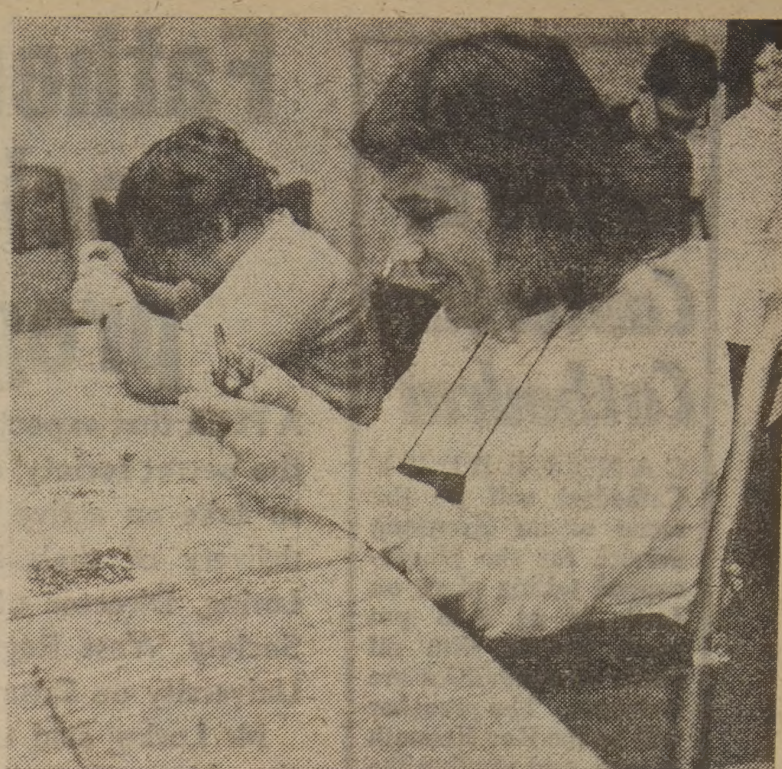
It was the 14th and biggest course of its kind with 13 trainees and five escorts, and organised by Mr Arthur Dobson, the Society's Homework Manager, and his wife Elsie.

'In the old days when we started my wife and I had to do all the care of the trainees as well as the training and that was pretty tough going. Now we go to the Bedford and the care staff are excellent — we just concentrate on teaching. We have started a new range of all metal jewellery with no stone setting required.

'The Homework Section is not a "charity." Not only are we providing work, but offering quality work at competitive prices while at the same time stimulating and encouraging our workers who are usually the most severely disabled. We hold the courses about once a year and the jewellery is sold through local groups and by arrangement with the Northern Ireland Council for Orthopaedic Development and the Scottish Council for Spastics.

'Some of the intake of the last course were exceptionally good. Bob Dyer can only work with one hand but he was remarkable. Mrs Jeffries of course is excellent and so is Mrs

Sharon Haines. She was at the Miriam Harris Work Centre for years until she moved. Not only was she able to cope with everything we gave her to do but she came up with lots of ideas of her own, both to do with jewellery making and other craft possibilities that could be done at home. We are costing these at the moment to see if they are a viable proposition.'



MRS Sharon Haines has not long moved from Epping, where she attended the Chingford Work Centre, to Lincoln, and jewellery making is a new venture for her. With her in the picture is Mrs June Tomlinson, of Nottingham, and they are both working on chain linkage for all metal type jewellery.



CONCENTRATION from the students on the Homework course which was for re-training. Most have been homeworkers for a number of years but a switch to all metal jewellery involving no stone setting but plier work with new methods, made the course a necessity. If demand increases for the new type of work another course will be organised.

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MOTABILITY

SN June 5

A special service at Canterbury Cathedral

CANTERBURY Cathedral will be the scene of an Evensong Service for the Handicapped taking place on June 24 at 3.15 pm when people with all kinds of disabilities are welcome. The preacher will be the Rev Kenneth Mason, and reading the lessons will be Dame Anne Bryans, DBE, Chairman of the Service Hospitals Welfare Committee, and a pupil from The Spastics Society's Thomas Delarue School, Tonbridge.

Tea is being provided in the Water Tower Gardens, or if wet, in the Cloisters, and the Band of the King's School, Canterbury, will play for the guests.

There is limited parking for 'disabled' vehicles allowed in the Cathedral precinct and passengers can be put down in the Buttermarket just outside the Cathedral grounds. There is a limited number of wheelchairs for use at the Cathedral, but no shortage of volunteers to help with pushing and feeding.

Father and the 'secret society' of pregnancy

A PLEA that expectant fathers should be let into the 'secret society' of pregnancy and encouraged to take an active interest in the bearing and delivery of their babies was made by James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, at a Society West Regional Conference at Exeter University on Saturday, May 19.

Mr Loring said that the idea of a true partnership between husband and wife during and before birth was very far from the minds of many people. In some hospitals, fathers were allowed to be present during the delivery of the baby, but all too often it was regarded by the population at large as something not in keeping with Western culture.

'But babies have fathers as well as mothers and men are increasingly wishing to share in the birth of their children,' he said.

There seemed to be something of a conspiracy against fathers. Only in

very exceptional circumstances would the Courts give custody of young children to the father, and there was no legislation to protect a man's employment if he wanted leave of absence following the birth of his child.

Demands

'During the nine months before birth many of the demands made upon pregnant women are demands which should be shared by the husband,' said Mr Loring. 'Too often men refuse to accept any responsibility whatsoever. A pregnant woman who already has two, three or four children is still expected to do the same amount of housework and follow the same domestic routine.'

Mr Loring believed that the father had a vital role to play in protecting un-

born babies from death or damage before, during, or immediately after birth. Much of what was expected of the mother could not be achieved without the support and encouragement from her partner.

For example, smoking during pregnancy was one of the major causes of small birthweight babies and it was up to the husband to encourage her to give up the habit before becoming pregnant, and to help by not smoking himself. Similar considerations applied to drinking of alcohol.

Husbands could also help by ensuring that wives attended antenatal clinics regularly. They should also realise the importance of a pregnant woman being protected from Rubella vaccination at least three months before becoming pregnant.

Care before birth could achieve a great deal in the direction of preventive medicine, and a loving husband should be there to help his wife carry out the advice of the doctors.

'Best ever'

Other speakers at the conference, under the chairmanship of Mr R. J. Bricknell, were Mr Alastair Mackie, Director General of the Health Education Council; Mrs Lorna Bailey, a lecturer at the Open University; and Mr Michael Brudenell, a consultant from Kings College Hospital, London.

The conference organiser, Miss Charmian Mould, senior regional officer, said it was the 'best ever' in the West Region. 'The quality of all the papers was very high indeed and the audience participation continual,' she said. 'A most rewarding day.'



News about the Spastics Pool

A 32-PAGE, full colour, mail order catalogue, containing 250 competitively priced products, was launched in May. The new catalogue 'Ninetree Gifts,' is an extension of the popular Goodwill Gift Scheme, through which 25 million gifts have been distributed to Spastics Pool supporters since 1960.

Ninetree Gifts Catalogue will be published twice a year and the next will appear in September with a Christmas supplement. A copy of the Spring / Summer catalogue can be obtained from Mike Shute, Ninetree Gifts, Westmorland House, 104 Stokes Croft, Bristol BS99 7QX.

MR Wynn Griffiths, Hen Felin, Aber, Gwynedd, receiving a Spastics Pool first dividend cheque for £12,500 from actor John Howarth — Albert Tattersall of 'Coronation Street' at the St George's Hotel, Llandudno. Said Wynn's wife, Olwen, 'This has been a fantastic surprise. Although we haven't any immediate plans to spend the money, we do intend to take a family holiday.'

MRS Rose Brown, Shrewsbury Road, Forest Gate, London had to be a patient before she received her first dividend cheque for £5,000 from the Mayor of New Ham, Councillor H. E. Fitzsimmons, because of the Mayor's election engagements. However, on May 8, a delighted Rose Brown received her cheque.

Picture shows, from left to right, The Mayor, Rose Brown, Spastics Pool regional manager Mr Harry Stanford, and area supervisor Mr B. Maguire.

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Pounds gained

YEAR after year Joy Alder, of Seer Green, Bucks, loses pounds, and not just her own either. In the three years she has organised four-week sponsored slims she has raised a total of over £1,000 and this year's figures are 220lb down and £378 raised for the Society's Princess Marina Centre.

Campaign coffee

COLCHESTER Inner Wheel raised £400 at a coffee morning and the cheque was presented to Colchester and District Spastics Society for the 'Save a Baby' campaign.



MR Malcolm Williams had 4,166 reasons for staying at his home at The Glebe, Tenby, Dyfed, on May 6

and all of them were £'s. Malcolm received his first dividend cheque for £4,166 from the Mayor of Tenby, Councillor Bert Sales.

Area supervisor, Mr F. and his wife, right, were present to congratulate and Mrs Malcolm Williams on their good fortune.

From eight to 70-plus, everyone enjoys wheelchair dancing

TWENTY - ONE teams from all over the country took part in The Spastics Society's 1979 English Wheelchair Dance Festival on Thursday May 10 at Hammersmith Palais. The ages of the competitors ranged from eight to 70-plus and many of the 200 men, women and children taking part were old-time visitors to the Hammersmith Palais, kindly lent for the occasion by Mecca Promotions.

Amongst the new teams taking part were the All-Stars, the first team to compete from the National Star Centre, Ullenwood Manor, Cheltenham. This team was only formed in February this year, initially to put on a display of wheelchair Morris Dancing at a College barn dance, so they had only been practising for two months.

Costumes

The All-Stars performed 'Young Collins', a Gloucestershire Morris Dance adapted for wheelchairs, with the team wearing bowler hats, complete with sticks and bells. Their Novelty Dance was Windmills of the Mind, choreographed by themselves.

'We've progressed quite a bit since the barn dance that started it all,' commented team member 17-year-old Clive Wilson, who is in his second term at the National Star Centre. Clive is a former Thomas Delarue pupil, who first did wheelchair dancing when he attended the Wilfred Pickles School.

There were shrieks of delight from the children of the Wilfred Pickles School as their team The Grangers won the Children's shield back from the Palace School, Ely, Cambridgeshire, by two points.

Later, the guest judge from Holland, Mr E. Castelain offered his congratu-

lations to the children: 'It is a pleasure we have seen your dancing. Always in the music, always in the right time. It is fantastic. You must have worked hours and hours,' he commented, and his praise was much appreciated by the team's instructor, school physiotherapist Jennifer

Grout. 'People do know the difficulties in training a group like this. There's not a child in this group with good hands,' she said.

The children from Wilfred Pickles were looking forward to a trip around London looking at the sights before their return journey home.



PICTURED wearing the life jackets are David Finnegan, Georgina Cook, and John Gillingham with the pupils from Manningtree School who made the presentation, Carol Rolton, Graham Curd and Jeanette Glynn.

A new crew for Liberty

RESIDENTS at the Society's Jaques Hall Centre in Manningtree, Essex, are all set for a summer afloat.

Warden Keith Mitchell explained: 'Before we held our summer fete last year we held a meeting between staff and residents to discuss what we should buy with the proceeds. We decided that if we topped the £1,000 mark we would get a boat. In fact we made a record £1,498 and we have bought a Pilot 520 with a 40 hp outboard motor and seating six people. Pupils at Manningtree Comprehensive School donated £90 for two self-inflating life-jackets and when the firm that makes

them, Crewsaver, heard what they were for they decided to donate the third. Then a friend of mine, Captain Roger Stone, donated eight capon life jackets so residents will have the self-inflating ones and staff will use the capon jackets.

'Our boat is called Liberty and we are not going to change it. I believe it is bad luck to change the name of a vessel and as none of our residents have ever been boating before we feel it is a very appropriate name.'

Needs of hospital children

JUNE 16-23 has been designated Children in Hospital Week by the International Year of the Child Committee. 'Your Child in Hospital Needs You' is the slogan chosen by the National Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital which is organising a nation-wide poster campaign.

The 60 NAWCH groups in different parts of the country will be organising various projects such as helping mothers to visit their children in hospital by providing transport and babysitting services, as well as arranging outings and visits for children in long-stay hospitals.

Joyce's generous years



YOUNG Joyce Malcolm, from Kirkintilloch, Dunbartonshire, is an 11 year old who's been banking on making other children happy.

Joyce has been saving up halfpennies since she was five and this latest £10 worth was the fifth £10 donation she has given to the Scottish Council for Spastics in Edinburgh.

Picture by the Scottish Daily Record

According to Mr Arthur Edwards, Chairman of the Wheelchair Dance Association, the 1979 Festival was marked by a noticeable increase of interest shown by the general public. 'If the interest in wheelchair dancing continues to grow, as I am sure it will, in 1980, we shall have to have festivals in the north and the south in order to accommodate all the dancers,' said Mr Edwards.

The winners

The results were:

Formation Dance A: Choughs I, Musical Chairs, White Roses of York, Rainbow dancers I.

Formation Dance B: Jubilee Wheelers, Bedelwheelers, Mote House Whirlers.

Team Championship (Children) A: White Roses of York, Erossians. (Children) B: The Grangers, Palace School. (Adult) A: Choughs I, Musical Chairs, Spinning Wheels, Rycote Spinners. (Adult) B: Choughs II, Concordes, Spinning Wheels II, Jubilee Wheelers, Cressy Fields.

Novelty Dance A: Rainbow Dancers I, White Roses of York, The Jay-Jays, The All-Stars, Erossians.

Novelty Dance B: Rainbow Dancers II, Joint second Mote House Whirlers and Bedelwheelers, Foxdenton.

Couple dancing A: Geoffrey White and Ann Welland, Keith Piddington and Angela Pascoe, Pat Wilson and Margaret Coot, Margaret Gibbs and Jasmyn Turton.

Couple Dancing B: Richard Reading and Kath Smith, Horace Whitehead and Margaret Bridge, Pearl Willecks and Marion Saunders.

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Petition at the Commons

Continued from page 1
Mothercare Ltd, up to St Stephen's Entrance. An informal ballot had been held at the Society's headquarters earlier to see who would actually hand over the red leather bound volume the 'Priority of Priorities' bearing the signatures of all the most distinguished supporters of the campaign.

These included that of the Society's Patron, the Duchess of Kent, many members of Parliament, prominent members of the medical profession, Lord Mayors and that of Virginia Wade, the tennis star.

Chosen for the task of handling it over was Sister Adrienne McMeeking who passionately believes in saving life wherever possible. She said: 'I am a midwife at University College Hospital and I am very pleased to be handing over this petition. It is very important that life should be saved.'

On its way

She handed the book to Mr Moss Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union and the petition was received by Mr Lewis Carter-Jones, Labour MP for Eccles, Mr Tony Newton, Conservative MP for Braintree, Mr Jack Ashley Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent and Mr John Hannam, Conservative MP for Exeter. They were flanked by Mrs Winifred Andrews, President of the Royal College of Midwives, Mr Trevor Phillips, President of the National Union of Students, Miss Nerys Hughes of the Stars Organisation for Spastics and Mr Dorrien Belson, Chairman of The Spastics Society.

Dame Elizabeth Ackroyd gave a short address and 20 midwives began the task of carrying the signatures up to the Petition Office. Trevor Phillips of the NUS said: 'I think this has been a really remarkable achievement. I am quite staggered by it. So much effort means that the Government must sit up and take notice.'

Mrs Winifred Andrews, who in her time has delivered countless babies, was

equally impressed.

'This campaign is the very essence of midwifery. Every baby must be a wanted baby and a healthy baby,' she said.

In the Petition Office, the Clerk of Petitions, who wrote the actual petition with its archaic wording, checked the signatures to see all was in order before handing Mr Carter-Jones the handwritten top copy.

Mr Carter-Jones, the Clerk and two of the midwives then formally signed and the following day as the House rose from Prayers the Speaker called on Mr Carter-Jones.

As he read the Petition out to the House, the distinctively garbed attendants of the Commons began bringing in the bundles of signatures. Miss Anne Dillon, the Petition organiser, who was there, said: 'It was a tremendously moving occasion as all these uniformed men brought in the petition.' The petition was one of the largest to be presented to the House in the last 200 years and Anne commented on its success.

'When you consider how few people actually have direct experience of cerebral palsy, to reach almost a million people is very good indeed.'

'We have made many very valuable contacts that the Society must maintain and Mr Carter-Jones feels very strongly that the Petition has revitalised the campaign as far as Westminster is concerned. Questions will be asked in the House, asking what the Government proposes to do.'

Widespread publicity followed the presentation of the Petition, and a rush of Petition signatures through the post — unfortunately, now too late to be included.

They helped England to sporting success

THIS sporting couple, 15 year old Alison Grenville, and 14 year old Terry Parsons, were among 40 handicapped children picked to represent Eng-

land at the international games taking place at Ratingen, near Dusseldorf, Germany, in May, organised by The Spastics Society.

Alison and Terry, who both come from the same school, Patcham House in Brighton, took part in running events, throwing the discus and javelin and putting the shot.

Mr Norman Clark, the school's headmaster, said: 'It was a great honour to have two members of our small school represent England. We place great emphasis on sport, and many of our pupils have competed in international games for spastics, which take them all over Europe and as far away as America.'

England won 61 out of the 79 events, and three out of four cups.

Picture by Brighton Evening Argus



● DAME Elizabeth Ackroyd is one of the 'Save a Baby' Campaign committee which organised support of the petition and she told the MPs: 'A year ago The Spastics Society made a pledge that it would

come back with the support of the British people for the "Save a Baby" campaign. Today we are happy to hand over this petition with nearly a million signatures to bring the matter to the notice of Government and demand action.'



● SANDRA Naidoo of Thames TV interviews the Society's Director, James Loring, for the widely seen, 'Thames at Six' programme, which devoted generous time to featuring the petition and its aims.

Society's victory over German measles campaign

THE announcement of an official Government campaign starting this month to reduce the incidence of rubella (German measles) is a victory for the hard battle fought by The Spastics Society which began pressurising for the prevention of needless handicap months ago following the epidemic of spring 1978.

Rubella is normally regarded as a minor infectious disease but if it is contracted during the early stages of pregnancy it can have very serious effects on the foetus, resulting in damage, miscarriage or perinatal death.

Since 1970 vaccination has been offered to schoolgirls between the ages of 11 and 14. Take-up varies from area to area but the national average is 70 per cent. It has also been available, since 1972, to adult women following screening for immunity.

The aims of the DHSS campaign are: to increase take-up among schoolgirls to 90 per cent and eventually to 95 per cent; to encourage women up to the age of 45 who have not been vaccinated or who have not established that they are immune, to take a blood test followed, if necessary, by vaccination providing they are not pregnant; to follow up, test and offer vaccination to girls aged 16 to 19 who leave school without being vaccinated.

Rubella vaccine must not be given during pregnancy and at least three months should elapse after vaccination before a woman becomes pregnant.

Vandals smash and slaughter

STAFF at the spastics day centre at Monk Bretton, Barnsley, had to clear up the wreckage after the second raid by vandals within a month. Equipment was stolen including a colour television set.

As well as smashing up the inside of the centre, the two pets, Joey the budgie and Fred the goldfish were cruelly slaughtered, much to the distress of the 11 regular attenders at the centre.

SPASTICS NEWS

Published by The Spastics Society.

Editor: Sheila Jenner.
Editorial office: The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. Tel: 01-636 5020.
Advertising representative: Renee MacNeil, address as above.

The views expressed in Spastics News are not necessarily those of The Spastics Society.

Printed by F. J. Parsons, Observer Buildings, Cambridge Road, Hastings, Sussex.

